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ICLEI South Asia E-News

January 2024



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We welcome you to 2024 with a new year of invigorated and energetic updates! As we stand at the threshold of 2024, ICLEI South Asia renews its pledge to steer our cities towards a more sustainable, resilient future. Embracing the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, we remain committed to our mission of driving transformative urban development while prioritizing net-zero objectives.

The journey so far has been one of profound learning and growth. The recent conclusion of COP28 at the end of 2023 has been a watershed moment for global climate action. At the United Nations Climate Change Conference, ICLEI South Asia organised as well as participated in various sessions, focusing on urban sustainability challenges and opportunities. In our latest [blog](#), we delve into the critical decisions made at COP28 and their implications for our cities. It is time for reflection and recalibration, as these global agendas will shape our local strategies. I encourage you to read our insights and understand how these international resolutions will guide our actions at the city level.

Another highlight from the year-end were two significant studies supported by the Van Leer Foundation, which explored the challenges faced by young children and their caregivers in urban areas, particularly regarding public space usage and the health impacts of climate

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were disseminated through workshops in Guwahati and Kochi and have been instrumental in highlighting the importance of safe public spaces against the backdrop of climate change.

As we forge ahead, our collaboration with city governments will be more critical than ever. This year, we aim to intensify our efforts in helping cities implement sustainable development strategies, focusing on local actions with global impacts. We will be rolling out new initiatives, offering support, and fostering partnerships that drive change and deliver on the promise of a sustainable future. We invite you to be an integral part of this journey, as we stride forward, hand in hand, towards a sustainable, net-zero future.

Read on for details, and don't forget to follow our social media channels for regular updates about these, and other, programmes.

Emani Kumar

Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI and Executive Director, ICLEI South Asia

Latest Developments

Cities Unite, Act and Deliver: Unveiling the Climate Dialogues from COP28

The 28th COP session witnessed historic strides in climate action. Achievements included global consensus on renewable energy targets, loss and damage fund operationalisation, and a focus on the "end of the fossil fuel era." South Asian cities now prioritise resource mobilisation and climate action plans. ICLEI South Asia, in COP28, showcased transformative climate actions of local governments, stressing collaboration for resilient urban development.

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Forging Climate Resilience: Asia-Pacific's Endeavour at COP28

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ICLEI South Asia's sessions at COP28 on December 5 and December 9 at the

Multilevel Action and Urbanization Pavilion marked the Asia-Pacific region's dedicated fight against the global climate crisis and the climate emergency in the Global South. The sessions highlighted the tireless efforts in combating adverse effects of climate change, and the strategies presented determined the region's preparedness to combat climate change, forging a path towards sustainability.



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Building Safe Spaces: Studies Highlight Trends in Usage of Public Spaces and Climate Change Impact on Children

ICLEI South Asia's studies on usage of public spaces and the vulnerabilities of climate change and air pollution highlighted the challenges faced by young children and their caregivers. Surveys conducted in a slum area with a significant child population under 5 highlighted parental concerns about the adverse effects of climate change on their children. Nearly 60% of children covered by another survey primarily use neighbourhood streets for play due to better accessibility and safety, in comparison to parks and playgrounds.



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Decarbonising Transport: Webinar Highlights Need for Collaboration, Innovation, Promotion in Fostering Electric Mobility in India

The Asia LEDS Partnership (ALP) organised a webinar series focusing on the role of the government and the private sector in promoting electric mobility in India. Projections suggest that by 2030, more than 50% 2-wheelers, 70% 3-wheelers, and 30% private and other vehicles will be electrified. India is aiming



for an accumulated conversion of 30% automobiles from IC engines to electric

motors by 2030.

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New Ally for Decarbonisation: Training Showcases Promise of Green Hydrogen

Organised by the USAID-NREL partnership, The Asia LEDS Partnership (ALP) and the Global Climate Action Partnership (GCAP), this session focused on navigating key considerations for developing a green hydrogen landscape and aimed to guide participants, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, on developing country-specific hydrogen strategies. The training was organised in response to the growing demand for information on hydrogen considerations.



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CDKN Asia to Support Karjanha, Dhulikhel in Strengthening Plans to Boost Climate Resilience

Under the CDKN-Accelerating Inclusive Action project, ICLEI South Asia is working with the municipalities of Karjanha and Dhulikhel, Nepal, to support them in developing their Local Adaptation Plans of Action. To this end, impactful site visits were conducted to the two municipalities to understand their existing climate risks and adaptation needs. Key discussions in Karjanha centred on existing disaster plans and gender-inclusive projects while Dhulikhel focused on enhancing their climate readiness for resilient urban development.



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As part of the CDKN Accelerating Inclusive Action project, ICLEI South Asia, and the Municipal Association of Bangladesh (MAB) are aiming to work with Nilphamari and Lalmonirhat municipalities and support them in developing climate resilient strategies. The partners conducted an online inception meeting to discuss with the municipalities the plan for developing collaborative climate-resilient development strategies. The discussions highlighted challenges such as water contamination and extreme weather vulnerabilities that the plans should address.



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माहवारी और “वे” लोग

माहवारी एक सामान्य शारीरिक प्रक्रिया है, जो किशोरियों और अन्य मेंस्ट्रुएटर्स (वे लोग, जिन्हें माहवारी होती है) में किशोरावस्था के दौरान शुरू हो जाती है। आज के इस दौर में व्यापक जागरूकता और राजकीय- सामाजिक संस्थाओं के प्रयासों के चलते माहवारी स्वच्छता प्रबंधन पर काफी खुलापन आया है और लोग धीरे धीरे इस विषय पर बात करने लगे हैं। रेल के कोच से लेकर समुदायिक- निजी शौचालयों में अब डस्टबीन भी दिखाई देने लगे हैं।



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- [Statement from the ICLEI Secretary General on current draft of COP28 Global Stocktake Outcomes](#)
- [ICLEI Launches the INTERACT-Bio Biodiversity Financing Toolkit](#)



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Our mailing address is:

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability South Asia

C-3, Lower Ground Floor, Green Park Extension, New Delhi - 110 016, India

Tel. +91-11-4974 7200; Email: iclei-southasia@iclei.org

About ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network working with more than 2500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 125+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development.

ICLEI firmly believes that sustainable cities are the foundation of a just and sustainable world. We create systemic change in urban areas through practical, integrated solutions and spark city-to-city and city-to-region connections. ICLEI brings a strong urban component to national and global sustainability policy and translates global policy into action. Through our collective efforts, ICLEI is building a sustainable urban world to shift the trajectory of global development.

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